

# Dramatic Increase In Hospital Outpatient Dept. In 1967

The introduction of OMSIP in 1966 had a decided effect on increased demand for hospital services during 1967. Administrator Gary Chatfield told the annual meeting of York Central Hospital Association March 27. The hospital cared for 5,532 patients last year, making a total of more than 20,000 adult and children bed patients who have been served by the hospital in its four years of operation.

The most dramatic increase was in the outpatient department where 10,414 people were admitted for treatment and diagnostic services, an increase of 25%.

Mr. Chatfield noted that the demands here have seemed to reach a plateau and forecast that there would be no further dramatic jump until the new addition is completed and in service.

Residents of Markham Township and Richmond Hill accounted for 43.9% of the patients, those from Vaughan Township 21.9%, King Township 13.4%, Metro 10.7%, Whitchurch Township 5.2%, miscellaneous (mostly emergency) 4.9%. The Ontario Hospital Services Commission paid 95.4% of the costs and the Workmen's Compensation Board paid 2.4%. Uninsured residents paid 1.3% and non-residents paid .9%.

Revenue during the year was \$1,607,532 and expenses amounted to \$1,564,168. The credit balance enabled the board to reduce the outstanding debt to a mere \$8,217.

The hospital has 170 full time and 60 part time employees with the volunteers adding the equivalent of approximately eight full time workers to the hospital program for the benefit of the patients and of the hospital itself, he noted.

Chairman Stuart Parker, Q.C., concluding his two-year term of office, reported that the hospital had operated at 90% capacity, sometimes over, during 1967, in contrast to 70% in its first year of operation, only four years ago. He also pointed out that the medical staff had grown considerably in the four year period. In 1964 there were 10 specialists and 24 general practitioners on the staff. In 1967 this number had increased to 22 specialists and 36 general practitioners. As a result the field of services available has also increased greatly.

The chairman said major equipment added in 1967 included a heart monitor, a striker bed, a pacemaker, and closed circuit TV in the emergency department.

He reported that the first class in the regional school of nursing, which will serve five hospitals including York Central, has an enrolment of 61, six girls being from this area. They will spend two years at the school and one year gaining practical experience in a member hospital before graduation. Contract for construction of a building to house the school has been let, he said.

Work on the co-operative laundry, which will serve 12 hospitals including York Central, is still underway, he said, with opening anticipated in June.

Next year's budget is set at \$1,778,894, with salaries accounting for \$1,238,332. Standard ward rate has been set at \$35.35 per day, with the difference for a semi-private room being \$4.50 per day and for a private room \$8.50 per day.

The chairman outlined progress on the proposed expansion of the hospital to 372-bed capacity by 1970. It is planned to allocate 290 of these beds for active care, 30 for psychiatric and 52 for chronic cases.

**KALEIDOSCOPE** by Cathy Wilson will be found on Page 8 this issue.

efficient unit possible. Located at the north of the present building, it will be joined to it at ground level. The plans will allow the construction to proceed with a minimum of inconvenience and will involve a minimum of remodeling.

The new wing will contain two basic floors of services, then a mechanical floor, then three patient floors organized on a double corridor plan.

The trustees are now working with the municipalities and will do all in their power, the chairman stated, to bring about

extension of Trench Street and provision of adequate sewerage service.

He paid tribute to four deceased members of the board, who had contributed much work in the days, when a local hospital was just a dream, through its building and early years of operation.

These were J. E. Smith the association's second president; Dr. Hagar Hetherington, former chief of medicine; Mrs. Schuyler Snively and Geoffrey Kingsler. He also complimented the hospital auxiliary on its contributions to hospital services.

Dr. J. A. McPhee, head of the medical advisory committee, reported that the medical staff had tried to ensure that the new building would have built in a flexibility for development in patient care. He stated all work in the hospital was carried out under the supervision of capable department heads in order to maintain high standards of care.

He reported that Dr. Arnold Arai is now head of surgery, succeeding Dr. Ian Kerr.

Mrs. W. S. Pocknell reported on the activities of the auxiliary of which she was president for

two years. An average of 155 volunteers (including 22 candy strippers) each month provided 15,181 hours of work in the hospital during 1967.

John Griffin, Dr. Walter Mason and Dr. John Heard were re-elected for a three-year term as trustees and Harry Hill of Thornhill was elected for the first time to serve until 1971.

Other trustees are: Gordon Graham, Joseph Fry, W. G. Finlay, W. S. Cook, Mrs. F. C. Jackson, Graham Walter, Donald Stewart, and Stuart Parker. The County of York represented on the board by Reeve

Donald Plaxton of Richmond Hill and Deputy Reeve Robert Laidlaw of Markham Village. Richmond Hill is represented by Councillor William Lazenby as the mayor's alternate, Vaughan Township by Reeve Brian Bailey and Markham Township by Reeve Stewart Rumble.

The hospital auxiliary is represented by its President Mrs. E. E. Spears of Richvale. The medical staff is represented by Dr. J. A. McPhee of King City, immediate past chairman and Dr. Victor Zuck of Richmond Hill, incumbent chairman of the medical advisory committee.

## Hospital Staff Wins Trophy

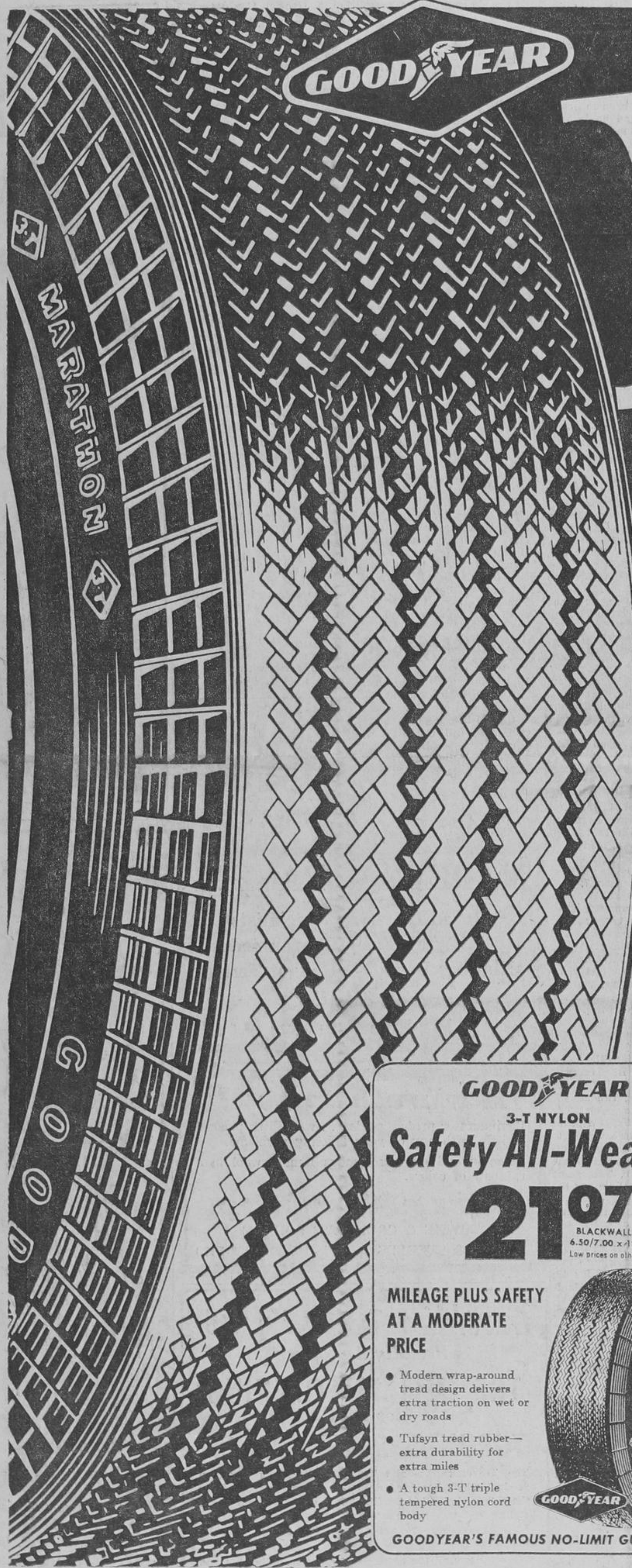
Besides being members of a very efficient hospital staff, representatives of that staff at York Central Hospital are no mean curlers.

Last week at Richmond Hill Curling Club these representatives won the Canada Pharmaceutical Trophy for the third successive year by defeating the York County Hospital staff.

A very enjoyable afternoon was spent in the annual curling event, it is reported.

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